

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

MAR 1 8 1981

REVIEWED BY *Thurmond* DATE *MAR 1*

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JULY 13, 1971

21  
The Honorable Strom Thurmond  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Thurmond:

The Secretary has asked me to reply to your letter of June 25 regarding the imprisonment of Rudolf Hess.

The United States Government shares your view that Mr. Hess should be released on grounds of his advanced age and infirmity. In 1964, 1966, 1969 and again in 1970 we, together with the Governments of the United Kingdom and France, made representations to this effect to the Soviet Union but each time the Soviet reply was negative. In addition there have been other approaches including, as you noted in your letter to the Secretary, a recent British initiative. We hope that the Soviet Union will give this approach the serious and favorable consideration which it merits. Since the Soviet Union is well aware of our position, we do not believe that a new initiative by the United States Government at this time would be helpful in influencing the Soviet Union.

It is unfortunately not possible for the United States, or the three Western powers acting together, to free Mr. Hess. The international agreements governing his confinement were signed by all Four Powers--including the Soviet Union--and unanimous agreement is needed to effect any changes.

I hope that this information will be helpful to you and that you will continue to call on me whenever you believe I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

*cu*

David M. Abshire  
Assistant Secretary  
for Congressional Relations

Clearances: L/EUR - Mr. Huffman  
EUR/GER - Mr. Sutterlin  
EUR - Mr. Springsteen H.

EUR/GER:WNewlin:sd:7/9/71

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7109003  
United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 25, 1971

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ACTION  
is assigned to

EHR

Honorable William P. Rogers  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express my concern over the continued imprisonment of Rudolf Hess. I see no purpose in continuing his imprisonment long after other war criminals have been freed. I understand that recently the British government has asked the Soviet Union to relinquish their veto power over this matter, and I would appreciate your careful consideration of the United States taking a similar step.

With best wishes,

Very truly,

*Strom Thurmond*

Strom Thurmond

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